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DFD-2399-61

28 April 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Support Assistant, DD/S

SUBJECT : Use of Tourist or Economy Class Air Travel Accommodations

1. In compliance with your memorandum on above subject, Development Projects Division has isolated from its 1962 Fiscal Year budget a total of [] as the amount expected to be spent on air travel, both TDY and PCS. As discussed with [] on the telephone other funds used in special programs are not included but are available if needed.

2. If economy class accommodations were used instead of first class, it is estimated that there would be a saving of [] on the above figure. This is based on a 30% reduction which represents an average of the difference between first and economy taking into consideration travel to all parts of the world as well as within the Z.I.

3. Insofar as the reaction of this Division is concerned toward adoption of the proposed policy, we are opposed. A goodly percentage of DPD travel is performed by technical representatives of U.S. companies who are under contract to the Division thru their parent organizations. In the contracts travel is covered and it is safe to assume that the representatives will expect it to be in accordance with commercial practice, that is, first class, cover permitting. Not only would it be unfair to have attached tech reps travel first class while staffers and military detailees traveled economy, but it would also be poor security in view of the fact that all are presumably similar types (e.g., []). Again, if the military services do not come under the proposal we would be placed in the position of denying to military detailees what JTR's permit--first class travel. It is policy in the Air Force to authorize first class on all flights over 6 hours. In view of the fact that over 50% of DPD personnel are military any ruling on the subject would have to be consistent with military procedures.

4. It is also felt that in many respects the proposal is unrealistic in that it is permissive--that is, allows the decision to be made at time reservation is made. It has been our experience

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that first class tickets are more readily available in "crash" situations as so many of our movements are. Normally, tourist and economy seats are booked far in advance and there is little turnover. By taking advantage of the turnover which is more common in the first class we are able to arrange space on short notice. Finally, I think that the encouragement of use of tourist and economy should be sufficient. I have noted that personnel frequently use lower accommodations in order to accomplish their mission and that we will gain little by a system that, by its nature, will be loose.

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SIGNED


Chief, Administrative Staff
DPD

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